



U.S. Representative Rodney Frelinghuysen Reports to New Jersey

Frelinghuysen Successfully Presses for Risk-Based Homeland Security Strategy in New Jersey

More than four years after 9/11, it appears that the complicated and irrational way federal homeland security funds have been distributed is beginning to change for the better. In January, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Michael Chertoff announced that his agency was going to start targeting millions of dollars in grants according to "consequence, vulnerability and threat." This change, which Rep. Frelinghuysen and the 9/11 Commission have been strongly advocating, is long overdue and welcome news for the northern New Jersey – New York City Metropolitan Area.

Greater focus by the Homeland Security Department on risk and vulnerability increases the likelihood that New Jersey, the most densely populated state in the country with large population centers, airports, seaports, tunnels, and bridges, will receive more security funds to protect our citizens.

By dramatically altering the way funds are distributed under the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) – a special source of security funding for "high density, high threat areas," which includes several areas

in northern New Jersey – DHS will rely on the risk of terrorism and the vulnerability of critical infrastructure to terrorists attacks, instead of strictly on population.

Under the new administrative guidelines, Elizabeth, and the contiguous counties surrounding Jersey City and Newark, including Morris, Essex, Passaic, Hudson, Bergen, and Union counties, will qualify for funding under the UASI program.

Further, the new guidelines require that New Jersey's top state homeland security officials, in close coordination with security officials from these areas, present a comprehensive emergency preparedness plan to DHS that sends and spends federal security funds where risk is greatest.

To further enhance our security, the Defense Department recently certified a Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team to be based in New Jersey. With the skills and equipment to detect chemical, biological, nuclear and explosive agents, this team will support local emergency first responders in the event of an attack.

For more information about efforts to protect our nation visit: www.dhs.gov

Frelinghuysen: Immigration Laws Must be Obeyed, Reformed and Border Controls Need to be Strengthened

With an emphasis on stronger homeland security controls, the House has approved legislation to provide safer and more secure borders and to better prevent illegal immigration.

The Border Protection, Antiterrorism, and Illegal Immigration Control Act, a first step toward establishing meaningful immigration reform, requires the construction of more physical barriers, security fences, lighting, and cameras along certain portions of the U.S.-Mexico border.

To reestablish respect for our immigration laws, this bill also increases penalties for Americans who harbor and knowingly employ illegal immigrants. It cracks down on smugglers trafficking illegal immigrants into our country and increases penalties for

aliens who attempt to reenter the United States illegally.

This legislation is a starting point for creating a fairer, more effective and compassionate legal immigration plan that will not encourage or exacerbate illegal entry across our borders, but rather show why America is a welcoming nation.

As a nation of immigrants and a land of opportunity, Rep. Frelinghuysen believes we should respect those people who follow the rules and want to come here legally to achieve the American dream. However, reform can only be truly effective if we prevent further illegal immigration and encourage the Senate to act immediately on this important legislation. To learn more visit: <http://judiciary.house.gov/>

Too Many Americans Caught by the Alternative Minimum Tax; Laws Must Change

With the tax filing deadline right around the corner, the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) continues to be a menace on families in northern New Jersey. Each year, more middle class families are being unfairly burdened by this tax penalty, which was not originally designed for them to pay in the first place.

The House has approved H.R. 4096, the Stealth Tax Relief Act, to prevent an AMT tax increase on middle class New Jerseyans this year. Rep. Frelinghuysen is fighting to get this legislation signed into law, which will prevent New Jerseyans from having to pay higher taxes on April 15.

The AMT was created more than 30 years ago to prevent high-income taxpayers from using multiple tax deductions and write-offs to avoid paying income taxes. In 1993, President Clinton increased the AMT but did not index it for inflation. As a result, more middle-income taxpayers are now forced to pay the AMT.

In 2001, and again in 2003, Congress increased the AMT exemption amounts by a total of \$13,000 for married couples and \$6,500 for single individuals. The Stealth Act H.R. 4096 extends the higher Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) exemption levels by one year (through 2006) and indexes these amounts to reflect inflation.

Without enactment of this legislation, the current AMT exemption amounts will fall from \$58,000 to \$45,000 for married couples and \$40,250 to \$33,750 for single individuals. If the Senate does not act, it is estimated that AMT exemption amounts will force 19 million taxpayers to pay higher taxes in 2006.

'America Supports You'

Many New Jerseyans have asked what they can do to support our troops serving at home and abroad. The U.S. Department of Defense has created "America Supports You" – a website listing several organizations that sponsor programs to support members of our Armed Forces.

Your support builds and sustains the morale of those fighting to defend our freedom. For more information visit www.AmericaSupportsYou.mil

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Rep. Frelinghuysen talks about health care with seniors during a visit to the Somerset Medical Center.





The Congressman visits students at Livingston High School to discuss the roles and responsibilities of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Demanding FAA Action on Air Noise

Living in the most densely populated area of our nation, Rep. Frelinghuysen is concerned that a recent draft environmental impact study released by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) does not adequately address aircraft noise problems in northern New Jersey.

In 2001, the FAA determined that aircraft noise pollution was the strongest and most widespread concern raised by the public. Yet, the FAA environmental study gave little or no consideration to northern New Jersey’s call for lessening air noise as a formal goal of their regional redesign project.

It is imperative that the FAA’s final air redesign plan strike a proper balance between airspace efficiency and safety and reducing the burden of aircraft noise that has plagued New Jersey residents for far too long.

As the FAA begins another round of public meetings, residents of northern New Jersey can voice their concerns and register their views by visiting: www.faa.gov.

Protecting America, Winning in Iraq

Newspaper articles, television news reports, debates on the floor of the U.S. House and Senate, and even dinner time conversations have been dominated by discussions about the war against terrorism in Iraq.

Three years removed from the beginning of this war, the stakes for victory remain high. Despite continued terrorists attacks, car bombings, beheadings, and kidnappings, the terrorists have not achieved their goals.

In fact, 2005 was a watershed year for democracy in Iraq. In January 2005, the world watched as Iraqis defied terrorists threats by going to the polls and casting their votes for self-determination. Eight million Iraqis went to the voting booth and took a stand against terror by voting for an interim National Assembly. In October 2005, almost 10 million participated in an Iraqi referendum to approve a national constitution that – for the first time ever – guarantees basic freedoms, rights and protections under law, regardless of gender, religion, or ethnic origin. And on December 15, 2005, more than 11 million Iraqis voted for a permanent, full-time government.

Iraq continues to strengthen its security forces, but not all of its military battalions are ready to operate independently of coalition troops. Our troops, and those of our coalition allies, are still needed in Iraq, and we need to stand firm in the face of the terrorists. If we leave prematurely, jihadists and terrorists will interpret our withdrawal as total victory and use that opportunity to turn Iraq into a springboard for future attacks closer to our shores.

For our troops to come home safely, our strategy for victory depends significantly on more Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) being trained, equipped, and ready to “lead the fight” for securing their own country. American military leaders in Iraq estimate that 210,400 Iraqi forces are currently fighting to defend Iraq. More than 80 battalions are fighting alongside coalition troops while nearly 40 others, including four in Baghdad, are independently

policing and controlling areas of Iraq. Despite that innocent Iraqis continue to be a target of suicide bombers, more than 50,000 Iraqi police have completed basic training courses and ISF recruitment remains high.

These are strong signs of progress in Iraq – none of which would have been possible without the service, sacrifice, and strong morale of U.S. and coalition forces. Iraqis want to be free, and thanks to the support of our servicemen and women, they are taking steps each and every day to reach their goal.

Victory will not be accomplished overnight. To the contrary, the Iraqis still need our help to meet their political and security objectives. Our work in Iraq remains dangerous and difficult, but we must meet the challenges of this new kind of war. We must honor the service and sacrifice of our soldiers by doing whatever it takes to protect our nation and prevail in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Support Our Troops

For military families who may be in need of assistance regarding a loved one deployed overseas or just in need of general support, there are several National Guard Family Assistance Centers in New Jersey. In our area, you can contact the Morristown or Somerset Armory:

Morristown Armory
430 Jockey Hollow Road
Morristown, NJ 07960-0499
POC: SSG Johnnie Thomas

Somerset Armory
1060 Hamilton Street
Somerset, NJ 08873
POC: John Hales

For more information, please call (888) 859-0352 or visit: www.state.nj.us/military/familysupport/

Picatinny Named DoD’s “Center of Excellence for Guns and Ammo”

After September 11, 2001, when American generals and commanders looked for new and more sophisticated weapons to be successful in Afghanistan, and later in Iraq, they turned to Picatinny Arsenal. Now that Congress has approved the Secretary of Defense’s recommendations to expand Picatinny’s missions and create nearly 600 new jobs at the installation, the Arsenal will become the “center of excellence for guns and ammunitions” and the U.S. military’s unparalleled leader for producing the most advanced weaponry.

Thanks to Rep. Frelinghuysen’s leadership, the President has also signed into law \$36.2 million for critical military projects to be researched and developed at the Arsenal. These projects will support Picatinny’s new missions as well as their continued success in putting the latest and best weaponry in the hands of our servicemen and women.

With 95 percent of all ‘go-to-war’ munitions already coming through Picatinny and 16 state-of-the-art laboratories currently at the Arsenal, the base will continue to be one of our state’s major contributors to the defense of our nation.

With Picatinny taking on a larger role in the War on Terrorism, U.S. Secretary of the Army

Francis Harvey recently visited the Arsenal at Frelinghuysen’s urging. The Secretary and Congressman reviewed operations at the installation and received briefings about Picatinny’s expanded role in the war against terrorism. They also assessed the production of munitions and armaments that our warfighters are currently using in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Congressman also helped rename Picatinny Arsenal’s Armament Software Engineering Center after Army Sergeant Ryan Doltz. Sergeant Doltz was a resident of Mine Hill, a graduate of Dover High School and the Virginia Military Institute, and a member of the New Jersey Army National Guard. He was killed on June 5, 2004 in Baghdad, Iraq.

At the dedication ceremony, Frelinghuysen said, “This building will serve as a permanent reminder that Picatinny is focused on serving the cause of peace and supporting our young warfighters. Your mission here – in the software engineering center and beyond – is providing the latest and best resources to make them safer and more effective as they go about their mission.”

Finally, Picatinny is leading the charge to help make nanotechnology the next frontier of science. Rep. Frelinghuysen helped unveil a new plasma



Rep. Frelinghuysen visits the new Nanotechnology Center at Picatinny Arsenal to discuss new military technologies.

reactor at the Arsenal in December 2005, which is one of a kind in New Jersey and the largest in North America. This new facility will ensure that the availability of nanotechnology is endless, especially on the battlefield. The new nano-reactor will enable lighter, stronger materials for warhead and gun components, more powerful explosives, and smaller and more reliable fuses.

For more information, visit: www.pica.army.mil/

New U.S. Stamp Honors War-Hero John Basilone

To honor the heroism of the late John Basilone, a Raritan, Somerset County resident and World War II Marine, Rep. Frelinghuysen and other local officials unveiled a commemorative U.S. postage stamp that gives this great American the recognition he truly deserves.

For nearly six years, Basilone, the son of an Italian-born father, served in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II, moving up to the rank of Gunnery Sergeant. He was assigned to the Pacific Theater and served in Guadalcanal.

On February 19, 1945, Basilone and his unit fought vigorously at Iwo Jima to capture Airfield One. After capturing the field, Gunnery Sergeant Basilone was killed by an exploding artillery shell.

Basilone was the first enlisted Marine to be presented with the Congressional Medal of Honor for heroism in World War II. He was also posthumously awarded the Navy Cross and Purple Heart, becoming the only enlisted Marine in WWII ever to receive all 3 medals.

Joined by Basilone's family and friends at the stamp unveiling, the Congressman said the story of



Marine Gunnery Sergeant John Basilone is pictured bottom left on this stamp block.

Gunnery Sergeant John Basilone is one of patriotism, valor and courage. "He is a son of Raritan, a son of Somerset County, and a true American hero who has earned the right to be recognized on a commemorative stamp."

The John Basilone stamp features a detail of a 1943 photograph of Basilone and the insignia of the 5th Marine Division. The stamp also features three other legendary Marines who served with bravery and distinction in the 20th Century – Sergeant Major Daniel J. Daly, Lieutenant General John A. Lejeune and Lieutenant General Lewis B. Puller. Millions of Americans will learn more about the bravery and sacrifice of these Marines because of this stamp.

Learn more about the Basilone stamp by visiting: www.usps.gov

Saving Tax Dollars – Reducing the Deficit

Just as businesses and families are expected to monitor their spending habits, so too must the federal government. The Deficit Reduction Act, recently approved by Congress and signed into law by the President, mandates more spending restraint and greater government reform.

This legislation saves \$41.6 billion over the next five years by slowing the rate of growth and helping the government run better. These budgetary decisions are tough but they are also long overdue.

By striking the proper balance between reducing the deficit and protecting our most vulnerable citizens, this legislation implements Medicaid reforms that have been endorsed by the bipartisan National Governors Association. It also simplifies student loan programs, frees up vital spectrum airwaves for first responders, expands welfare reform, and increases low income home heating assistance programs.

The Deficit Reduction Act is a positive first step toward addressing the long term spending concerns of our federal budget. While we have more work to do, this legislation is good for our economy and crucial for establishing a smaller, smarter, and more efficient federal government.



The Congressman tours the Siemens Corporation in Florham Park to discuss economic growth.

Preserving Lake Hopatcong and Great Piece Meadows

Lake Hopatcong is New Jersey's largest lake, and Rep. Frelinghuysen is working with local, state, and federal officials to make sure it is also our cleanest lake. With a new \$745,000 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant, the Lake Commission will be better able to implement stronger water quality and storm water controls to preserve the lake for the hundreds of thousands of residents and tourists who visit the lake for its swimming, boating, and fishing each year.

The Lake Hopatcong watershed is home to over 65,000 residents, 500,000 annual visitors, and 10,000 registered boats. The lake has more than 31 miles of shoreline, a critical habitat for fish and wildlife, and is the back-up water supply for more than 4 million northern New Jerseyans.

The Congressman, working with the Morris County Freeholders, also recently announced that the Army Corps of Engineers is acquiring properties in the Great Piece Meadows area of the Passaic River Central Basin as a natural flood storage area.

Spread across Fairfield Township, Lincoln Park Borough, and Montville Township, Great Piece Meadows is made up mostly of wetlands. This preservation project will allow for the acquisition of 472 acres, making it one of the largest open spaces purchases in Morris County.

Heavy rain and subsequent flooding along the Passaic River each year underscores the importance of this agreement to preserve more wetlands and establish more natural flood storage areas in northern New Jersey.

Frelinghuysen Opens New Ambulatory Care Building at Lyons Veterans Medical Center

Joined by the U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jim Nicholson, Rep. Frelinghuysen helped mark the 75th anniversary of the Lyons VA Medical Center in Bernards Township by dedicating a new Ambulatory Care Building on campus.

In return for the service and sacrifice of New Jersey's veterans, Lyons has been providing access to quality healthcare for the past 75 years. The opening of the new Ambulatory Care facility will go a long way to increasing health care services for New Jersey's expanding veterans' population.

Frelinghuysen, who secured funding for this project soon after he came to Congress in 1995, and Secretary Nicholson toured the new \$22 million Ambulatory Care Building and helped cut the ceremonial ribbon to officially open the new facility. They also

participated in a 75th anniversary ceremony for Lyons along with Ken Mizrach, the Director of the VA Healthcare Campus.

In February, the Congressman, a Vietnam veteran, also visited the Lyons VA Medical Center to distribute student-made Valentine's Day cards to hospitalized veterans. This widely popular program has touched the lives of hospitalized veterans with the children's very creative and colorful valentines.

Finally, the House passed the FY2006 Military Quality of Life and Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill, which included a record \$22.5 billion for veterans' medical care. Funding for veterans' medical care has increased 18 percent over the last two years.

To learn more about the Lyons VA Center and its many programs visit: www1.va.gov/visns/visn03/lyonsinfo.asp

Join Frelinghuysen's E-Newsletter

Stay on top of the latest issues and events in Congress by signing up for Rep. Frelinghuysen's e-mail newsletter at www.house.gov/frelinghuysen.

Interested in visiting our Nation's Capital?

Contact the Congressman's office to learn more about touring Washington, DC



Rep. Frelinghuysen discusses health care with officials at Chilton Memorial Hospital in Pompton Plains.

Protecting New Jerseyans from Cybercrime

With Internet identity theft on the rise, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has established a one-stop online resource center to help consumers learn how to better prevent their personal and financial information from falling victim to cybercrimes. Congressman Frelinghuysen has also introduced legislation that would reduce the amount of personal information website operators can release without the consent of the customer.

The FTC’s new website, www.OnGuardOnline.gov, will help Internet users become more aware of how to better secure their personal information and computers against identity theft. The website offers advice to consumers about ID theft, spy ware, phishing, and spam scams as well as guidance on how to protect their financial information when shopping, paying bills, or downloading online. Consumers can also learn more about how to access free credit reports, protect their online passwords, and backup important files stored on their computers.

As our economy and consumer habits change, our

Restoring Passenger Rail Service on the Lackawanna Cutoff

Imagine being able to bypass Monday morning rush hour traffic on Route 80 without having to deal with the headaches and frustration that come with driving in our area.

Revitalizing the Lackawanna Cutoff passenger rail line would offer commuters an alternative to the struggle and daily nightmare of traveling along Route 80. It would get cars off our overcrowded roads, restore passenger rail service for more than 680,000 annual commuters, and potentially connect Scranton to Hoboken and New York Penn Station via northern New Jersey.

Rep. Frelinghuysen continues to fight to bring this mass transit project back to life – most recently including \$10 million in the Fiscal Year 2006 Transportation Appropriations bill to help complete final engineering. Additionally, the Congressman secured language in the Transportation Equity Act that would make the Lackawanna Cutoff a top transportation priority in New Jersey.

The Lackawanna Cutoff still has many steps to go before it can begin to move passengers. But continued efforts at the federal level, and sustained support from our colleagues in Pennsylvania, NJ Transit, the Morris and Sussex County Freeholder Boards, and local officials, reaffirm the importance of seeing this project through to completion. By restoring this passenger rail line, commuters will be able to get to work and back home safer and quicker.

identify theft prevention laws must change as well.

With more than 10 million Americans affected by identity theft last year, Frelinghuysen’s *Online Privacy Protection Act*, H.R. 84, would direct the FTC to put out regulations requiring online services to protect the confidentiality, security, and integrity of the personal information it collects from individuals. The regulations would require website operators to provide a process for individuals to consent to or limit the disclosure of personal information.



Rep. Frelinghuysen pins the “NJ Distinguished Service Medal” on Marine Major Robert Cooke of Chatham.

Around Northern New Jersey

Rep. Frelinghuysen believes there is no higher priority than providing constituent services to the people of the 11th Congressional District. That is why he continues to meet regularly with local organizations and residents to discuss current events and participate in official activities. Recent events have included: meeting with students at the Street School in **Boonton**, Walter T. Bergen Middle School in **Bloomington**, James Caldwell High School in **Caldwell**, East Hanover Middle School, **Hopatcong** Middle School, **Livingston** High School, St. Vincent Martyr School in **Madison**, **Mount Arlington** School, Holy Spirit School in **Pequannock**, **Randolph** Middle School, Morris Hills High School in **Rockaway**, Sacred Heart School in **Dover**, White Rock Elementary School in **Jefferson**, **Morris Plains** Borough School, and the Shongum School in **Randolph**.

In other news, Frelinghuysen also attended: the Lyons VA 75th Anniversary & Ambulatory Care Building Dedication in **Bernards**, the **Denville** Chamber of Commerce, a tour of the Siemens Corporation in **Florham Park**, the Metrowest Super Sunday 2006 Phonathon and Paying for College Workshop in **Hanover**, the Northern New Jersey Chinese School New Year event in **Montville**, the Jewish Community Center of Somerset, Hunterdon, and Warren Counties, the Rabbinical College of America Menorah Lighting in **Morris Plains**, the **Morristown** Jewish Center, a tour of Reckitt Beckiser in **Parsippany**, the unveiling of a commemorative U.S. stamp for John Basilone in **Raritan**, an event at the **Wharton** Fire Department, and the American Legion Post in **Chester**.

The Congressman was pleased to have had the following interns volunteer in his Washington and Morristown offices: Brian Kelly of **Chatham Borough**, Katie Stern of **Sparta**, Nicholas Berg of **Dover**, Jessica Goldberg of **Randolph**, and Travis Okulski of **Montville**. Finally, Max Jacobson of **Caldwell** was selected during this school year to serve as a U.S. House Page from New Jersey.

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